

REMARKS

The application has been amended and is believed to be in condition for allowance.

Claim 1 has been amended. Claims 5-12 are new. Claims 1 and 6 are independent.

Claims 1-4 were rejected as obvious over BIDLACK et al. 5,964,686 in view of URBAN et al. 5,259,255.

BIDLACK et al.

BIDLACK et al. was offered for disclosing first and second sets of tools.

BIDLACK et al., however, fail to disclose at least one tool holder of the first set and at least one tool holder of the second set each carrying a cutting tool and a creasing tool, respectively, said tools being selectively controllable for conducting cutting or creasing operations in both longitudinal and transverse directions.

BIDLACK et al. was also offered for disclosing an endless belt moving the second set of tools.

BIDLACK et al., however, fail to disclose the second set of tools being controllable for connecting and disconnecting to the endless belt. The drawings evidence that the ends of the belt 52 in BIDLACK et al. are anchored on the carriage 34 (see Figure 3).

BIDLACK et al. disclose feed rollers 43,45, but BIDLACK et al. fail to disclose feed rollers operative as counter-support for cutting operations.

URBAN et al.

URBAN et al. was offered for disclosing first and second sets of tools controllable for connecting and disconnecting to an endless belt that is driven continuously in one direction.

URBAN et al., however, fail to disclose the intermittently driven belt.

URBAN et al. disclose a first set of tools individually controlled to connect to an endless belt and a second set of tools individually controlled to connect to an endless belt.

URBAN et al., however, fail to disclose the first set of tools being displaceable and positioned separately and independent from the position of the second set of tools as the first and second tools of Urban provide each other counter-support for cutting operations. Accordingly, URBAN et al. also fail to disclose feed rollers operative as counter-support for cutting operations, and tools operative for creasing operations.

URBAN et al. further fail to disclose first and second sets of tool holders, wherein at least one tool holder of the first set and at least one tool holder of the second set are each

carrying a cutting tool and a creasing tool, respectively, the tools being selectively controllable for conducting cutting or creasing operations in both longitudinal and transverse directions.

In view of these shortcomings in the applied references, it is believed clear that this reference combination does not render obvious the claimed invention.

Further, the combination of BIDLACK et al. and URBAN et al. is not believed to be viable. URBAN et al. is a longitudinal slitting machine for producing strips or bands, whereas BIDLACK et al. is an apparatus for producing box blanks (like the present invention), the two device being structurally and operatively different.

Furthermore, the structurally complex synchronization of the first and second slides of URBAN et al., using angle encoders (33) and proximity sensors (40) on each pair of slides, is avoided and teaches away from the presently claimed invention wherein the singular belt is sufficient for freely positioning multiple tool holders that cooperate with feed rollers to operate on the web material, at any desired transverse location and in both directions.

The claimed invention provides improved flexibility in the production of boxes/packing blanks of different sizes and designs, making possible a shift for production of singular units

at reasonable costs. This is a considerable achievement over the prior devices, utilizing a non-obvious structure.

Summary

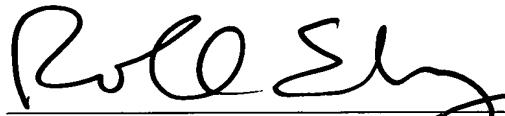
The proposed combination of BIDLACK et al. and URBAN et al. is not believed to be viable. Further, even if combined, the combination would not include all the presently recited features of the invention found in the pending independent and dependent claims.

Reconsideration and allowance of all the pending claims are respectfully requested.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 25-0120 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.16 or under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17.

Respectfully submitted,

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